

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 955

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Riders In The Sky  
upon the occasion of their thirtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy entertainers who, through their extraordinary musical talents, God-given hats, and commitment to excellence, have earned the universal respect of their peers and fans; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary performers who have made significant contributions to the field of popular music; and

WHEREAS, the members of Riders In The Sky are such outstanding musicians, and they recently celebrated their thirtieth anniversary of bringing good beef to hungry people through their unique brand of Comedy and Western performances; and

WHEREAS, the estimable career of Riders In The Sky officially began with a show at the Nashville nightspot Phranks and Steins on November 11, 1977, with Ranger Doug on arch-top guitar and singing baritone vocals and Too Slim playing bunkhouse bass and his face and singing tenor vocals; these two gentlemen were later joined by fiddler, tenor vocalist, and rope trick master Woody Paul and accordionist and baritone vocalist Joey to complete the acclaimed foursome; and

WHEREAS, since the group's inception, Riders In The Sky have continued the time-honored traditions of heralded performers such as Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and the Sons of the Pioneers, entertaining audiences with their melodious tunes, wacky humor, and Western wit; and

WHEREAS, the Riders' singular talents have enabled them to perform for fans in more than 5,550 shows, which have taken place in all fifty states, in eleven different countries, and at

multifarious venues that include the Nashville National Guard Armory, Carnegie Hall, numerous county fairs, the Hollywood Bowl, and the White House; and

WHEREAS, the classic cowboy quartet has also displayed their popular charisma and comedic flair on numerous national radio shows, including National Public Radio's *Riders Radio Theater*, which has aired since 1988, the XM Satellite Radio Ranger Doug's *Classic Cowboy Corral*, which has aired since 2006, and Larry King's Radio Show; they have also been featured performers on many television programs, such as *Barney and Friends*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, NBC's *Tom Snyder Show*, and Penn and Teller's *Sin City Spectacular*; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Riders In The Sky have appeared in television commercials for such American consumer staples as Budweiser and Cheer detergent and radio advertisements for Levi's 501 jeans and Taco Bell; and

WHEREAS, unquestionably eminent showmen, the members of Riders In The Sky are also respected musicians; in their prolific career, they have recorded twenty-six studio albums, three live albums, four children's albums, and two Christmas albums; and

WHEREAS, their supernal musical abilities have been recognized by a number of honors, including two Grammy Awards, one in 2001 for their children's album *Woody's Roundup featuring Riders In The Sky* and one in 2003 for another children's album titled *Monsters Inc.-Scream Factory Favorites*; the *Woody's Roundup* album contained tracks that were featured in the hit Walt Disney movie *Toy Story 2*; and

WHEREAS, Riders In The Sky have earned induction into the Western Music Association's Hall of Fame, the Country Music Foundation's Walkway of Stars, and the Walk of Western Stars, and in 1982 they became the first and only Western music artists to join the prestigious Grand Ole Opry; in 2008 they were awarded an Honorary Membership in the Society for American Music; and

WHEREAS, they have also won innumerable awards, including the Western Music Association's Entertainers of the Year Award, Traditional Group of the Year Award, and Traditional Album of the Year Award; the Academy of Western Artists's Western Music Group of the Year Award, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's Wrangler Award, and the 2008 National Festival of the West's Cowboy Spirit Award; and

WHEREAS, throughout the thirty years of their accomplished career together, the members of Riders In The Sky have uniformly served as exceptional ambassadors of the State of Tennessee and have brought great renown upon the good people of our State; and

WHEREAS, Riders In The Sky epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to acknowledge and applaud Riders In The Sky for their unique talents and unswerving dedication to excellence in all their endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Riders In The Sky upon the occasion of their thirtieth anniversary, commend their peerless contributions to American popular music and culture, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.